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ASTONISHING X-MEN®

JOSS WHEDON • JOHN CASSADAY

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MICHAEL.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

CAN I FINALLY SMOKE A CIGAR NOW?

IS IT VISITING HOURS YET?

WE CAN WAIT OUTSIDE. I'M A CAT; I'M GREAT AT PACING.

MICHAEL, THIS IS YOUR INSANE FAMILY.

MICHAEL? WHAT HAPPENED TO "LOGAN"?

AT SOME POINT THEY BECOME CUTE, IS THAT HOW IT WORKS?

STOW IT, EMs. HE'S A DREAMBOAT.

WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU, KITTEN. CAN WE HOLD HIM?

SOON AS HE'S TWELVE.

EXCUSE ME...

CAN I GET A LOOK?

PROFESSOR, THIS IS MICHAEL.

I MADE HIM MYSELF.

NNGGGAAAAAAHH!!

OH GOD. I BROKE IT.

DO YOU THINK HE'S HUNGRY?

ALREADY?

OKAY, EVERYBODY TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES, I'VE GOTTA WORK THIS FEEDING-THING OUT.

SHHH, MICHAEL, MOMMY'S HERE.

MOMMY'S HERE.

THE FALLEN OF GENOSHA

"As we live, they are not gone."

ARIGATO! MAMA, ARIGATO!

AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THAT COMES FROM. I THOUGHT HE'D PICK UP SOME RUSSIAN...

MAYBE HE HAS A POWER AFTER ALL.

LIKE DOUG'S? OH, HONEY, WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT...

BUT NOT LIKELY.

I DON'T CARE. POWERS, NO POWERS...HOW CAN ANYBODY THINK THAT MATTERS?

UP ON! UP ON!

HE'S MAGIC.

OUR OWN CRAZY MAGIC SPELL.

PUT THE BOY DOWN, KITTY.

I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT SAFE.

"IT"? WHAT? WHAT'S NOT SAFE?

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?

WHAT WE HAVE TO.

I WISH IT WERE DIFFERENT, KITTY. IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY...

YOU GUYS HAVE TWO SECONDS TO EXPLAIN--AND STOP MOVING!

DON'T TRY TO PHASE, KITTY. I'VE LOCKED YOUR POWER OUT OF YOUR BRAIN.

WHAT'S GOING ON?!?

MICHAEL HAS POWER. THE PROFESSOR SENSED IT THE DAY HE WAS BORN. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND IT...

WHAT POWER?

TERRIBLE POWER.

WHAT POWER?

YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE WITH SOME VAGUE JUNK ABOUT THE FUTURE AND EXPECT US TO GIVE UP OUR SON!

KITTY--

JUST HOLD 'EM OFF FOR TWO MINUTES, HONEY. I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.

I'M SORRY, KITTY.

I'M SORRY, PETER.

YOU BLINK AND I LET GO.

WHERE IS MY SON.

YOU WOULD MURDER ME?

DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE A PERSON.

HE NEEDS TO BE ISOLATED. IF I COULD HAVE BEEN WITH HIM--

YOU'RE NOT A PERSON!

BIG METAL @#$%ING ROBOT, AND SOMEHOW I DIDN'T SEE IT.

OUR SON!

EIGHTEEN MONTHS I'M IN THAT...PLACE... FIGURING, WAITING...

I SANG HIM TO SLEEP. EVERY NIGHT. HE'S MY SON SO I DID THAT. FIVE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN TIMES.

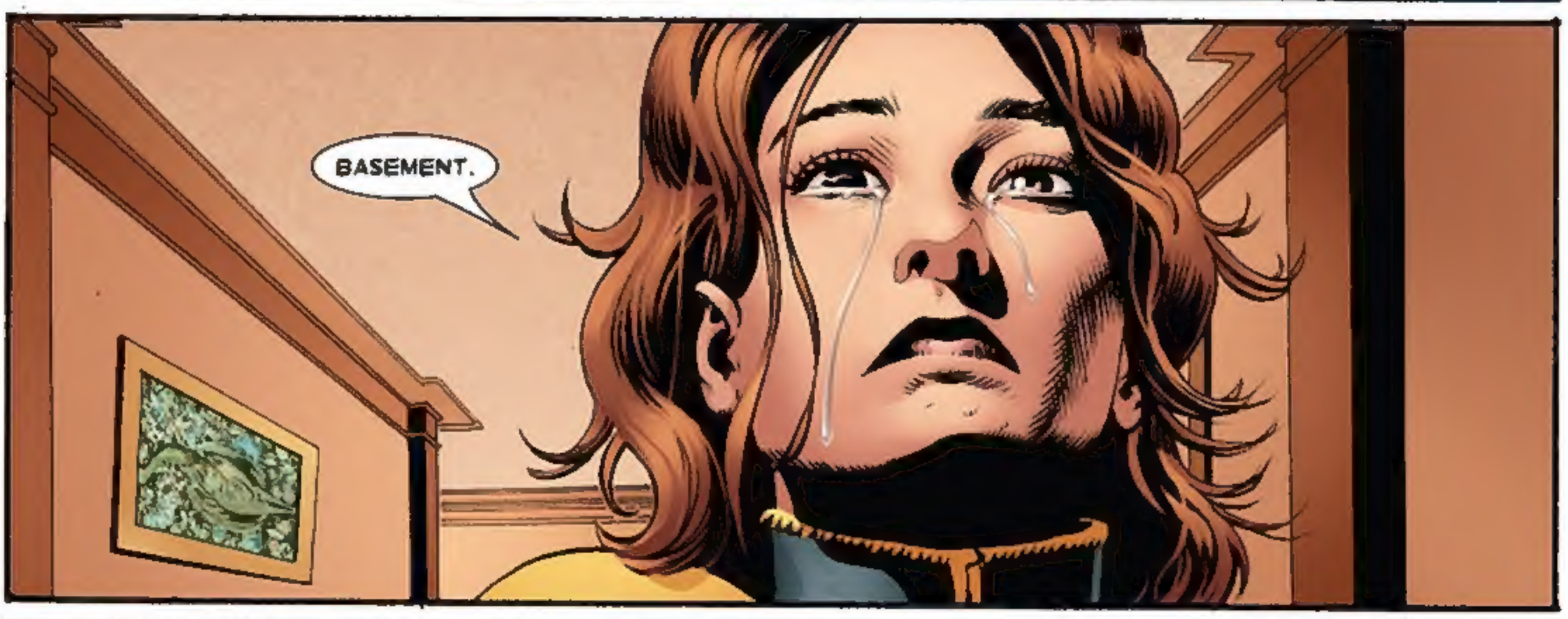
IT WAS FOR ME. TO HELP ME. BECAUSE MICHAEL, FIVE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN TIMES HE WENT TO BED WITHOUT ME, NOT UNDERSTANDING, NOT SAFE, NOT FAIR, FOR A CHILD, HE'S A CHILD...

MY CHILD. NOT YOURS. ROBOT.

WHERE.

HE'S IN THE BASEMENT.
IN A BOX.

GO. I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU.


BASEMENT.

BOX.

SO IT'S FROST.

MOSSSST LIKE.

ATTACKING HER OWN TEAM. FURY BRIEFED ME ON THAT POSSIBILITY.

THERE ARE... ANOMALIES IN MY SENSINGS...

ONE PRESENCE THAT SEEMS TO MATCH CASSSSANDRA NOVA... BUT NOT... IT'SSS...

SPIT IT OUT. BUT WITH LESS SPITTING.

NOT SSSTABLE. THERE AND GONE.

SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST. COULD BE BLOCKING YOU OUT...

AGENT BRAND!

EIGHTY MILES OUT. WE GOT A VISUAL FROM THE MOLE.

SO. WHO'S THE TINKER-TOY?

"DANGER." SHE'S A.I., SHI'AR TECH.

@#$%ING SHI'AR... WISH SOMEONE WOULD PROPHESY THE END OF *THOSE* CLOWNS...

WE THINK SHE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT LAST ASS-WHUPPING THIS X-TEAM TOOK. THE WILD SENTINEL INCIDENT...

SO ORD HAS AN ALLY WHO'S NOT A MORON.

AND CAN CONTROL ALL OUR SYSTEMS. THAT'S HOW HE ESCAPED.

RIGHT. PUT ALL THE TECHS ON STASIS ALERT AND RUN A BLOCK ON ANY NETWORK INTRUSIONS THAT SMELL REMOTELY SHI'AR. I DON'T WANNA FALL OUT OF THE AIR.

APART FROM THAT, NO DEVIATION.

SIR, TRANSLATORS SAY THE MOLE WANTS TO ENGAGE.

NO. WE LET ORD REACH GROUND ZERO.

MOLE'S PRETTY DETERMINED TO--

JUST PATCH ME IN.

OH, WON'T YOU PLEASE WAKE UP!
I PASSED OUT AGAIN.
YES, EVERYONE'S ASLEEP EXCEPT THE PRYDE GIRL, AND SHE'S COME OVER A BIT FUNNY.
FUNNY HOW?
JUST WALKED OFF! WE SAW A WOMAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE A QUEEN, BUT AS SHE'D FORGOTTEN HER SKIRT (I COULD CLEARLY SEE THE SILHOUETTE OF HER UNDERCURVE) I ASSUME SHE MUST BE MAD--THOUGH THAT DOESN'T PRECLUDE HER FROM ROYALTY; ONE READS ABOUT GEORGE THE THIRD BUMBLING AWAY THE AMERICAS...
WHAT HAPPENED TO MS. PRYDE?

THEY FAIL YOU.

THEY LEAVE YOU OR THEY LET YOU DOWN

THEY DIE.

OR WORSE.

THE ONLY MAN IN THIS WORLD THAT I WILL EVER TRULY TRUST...

...IS THE ONE I MADE.

MY LITTLE MAN

MY MICHAEL.

MOMMY'S HERE.

KITTY...

HELLO, YES, MR. RASPUTIN.

SHAW.

THE HELLFIRE CLUB IS BACK.

YES.

AND I HAVE, IF YOU PLEASE, YOUR ORDERS.

"THINGS ARE GOING QUITE WELL."

THEN WHY ISN'T IT DONE?

IT'S BEING DONE. THIS IS THE MOST DELICATE PART.

YOU NEED TO BE PATIENT.

I HAVE BEEN THE SOUL OF PATIENCE, YOU UNDERCLAD CRETIN.

AND YOU HAVE BY FAR THE MOST TO LOSE. SO STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS OPERATION.

TO ME, YOU ARE ALL EXPENDABLE

ALL OF US? EVEN YOUR ..HOW SHALL I SAY... BETTER HALF?

THE IMPOSTER?

OH, HER MOST OF ALL.

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

HYPERDENSE ALLOY. SUBMOLECULAR SHIFT MATRIX. EVEN TRICKIER THAN THE CELL THEY HAD ME IN

CAN'T JUST PHASE THROUGH LIKE I'M USED TO.

KITTY-PROOFED.

EXCEPT THE KITTY THEY WERE DEALING WITH HADN'T SPENT A YEAR AND A HALF IN A BLACK ROOM WITH NOTHING TO DO BUT FOCUS ON EXACTLY THIS.

SPIN YOUR ATOMS ALL YOU WANT. I CAN GET PAST YOU.

I CAN GET HIM OUT.

ДЖЕЙН!

WROOTWROOTWROOTWR

GOD, IT HURTS SO BAD, I CAN'T... I CAN'T...I...

I CAN FEEL HIM.

AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE SHE WENT?

PERHAPS WHERE YOU'RE FROM THE CHILDREN ALL PLAY "*FLOAT THROUGH THE WALLS*", BUT I NEVER LEARNED IT.

SHE WENT DOWN, AND WESTERLY, I THINK.

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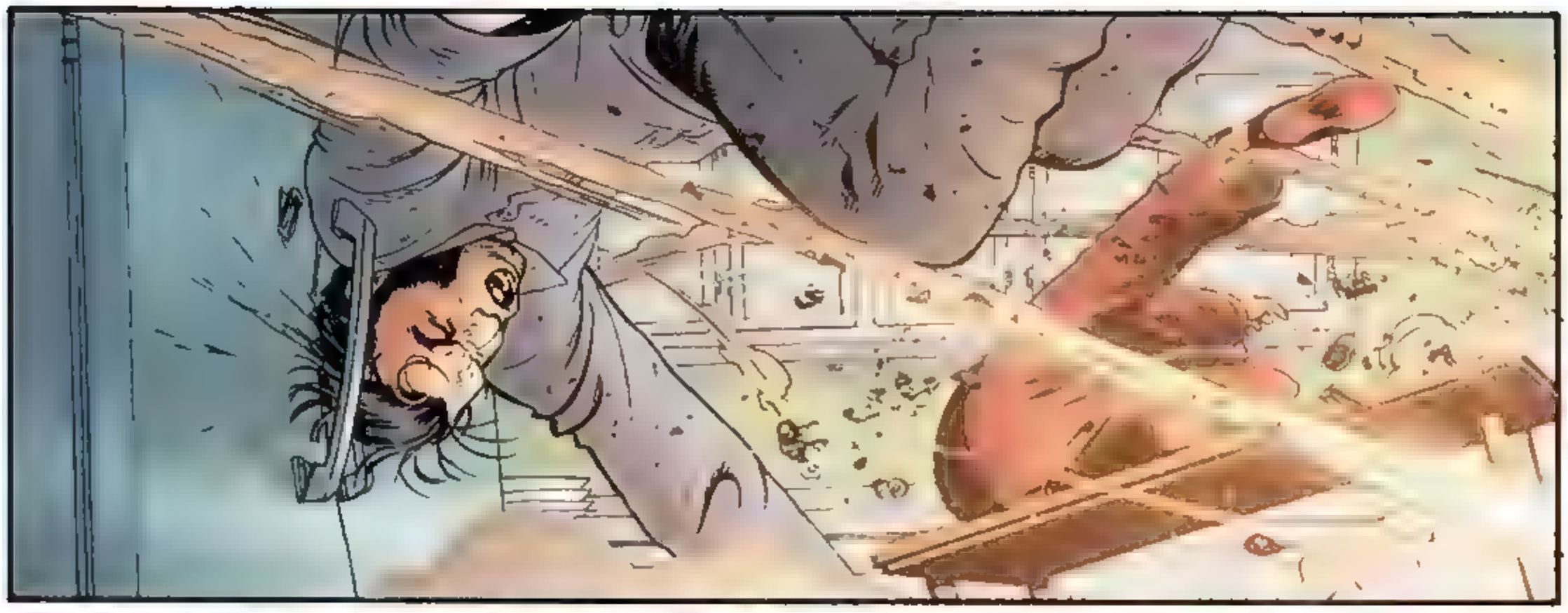
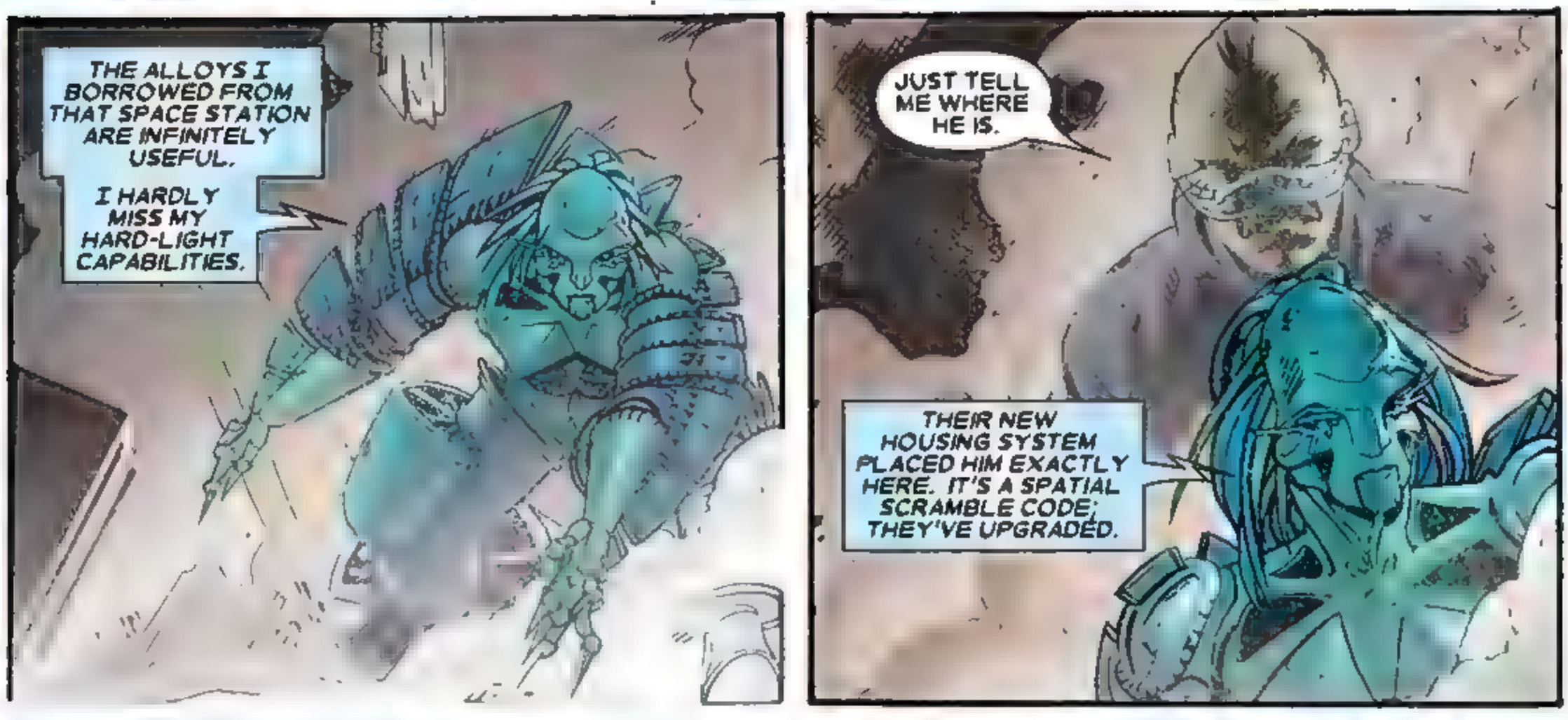
HOW ABOUT NO TALK AT ALL?

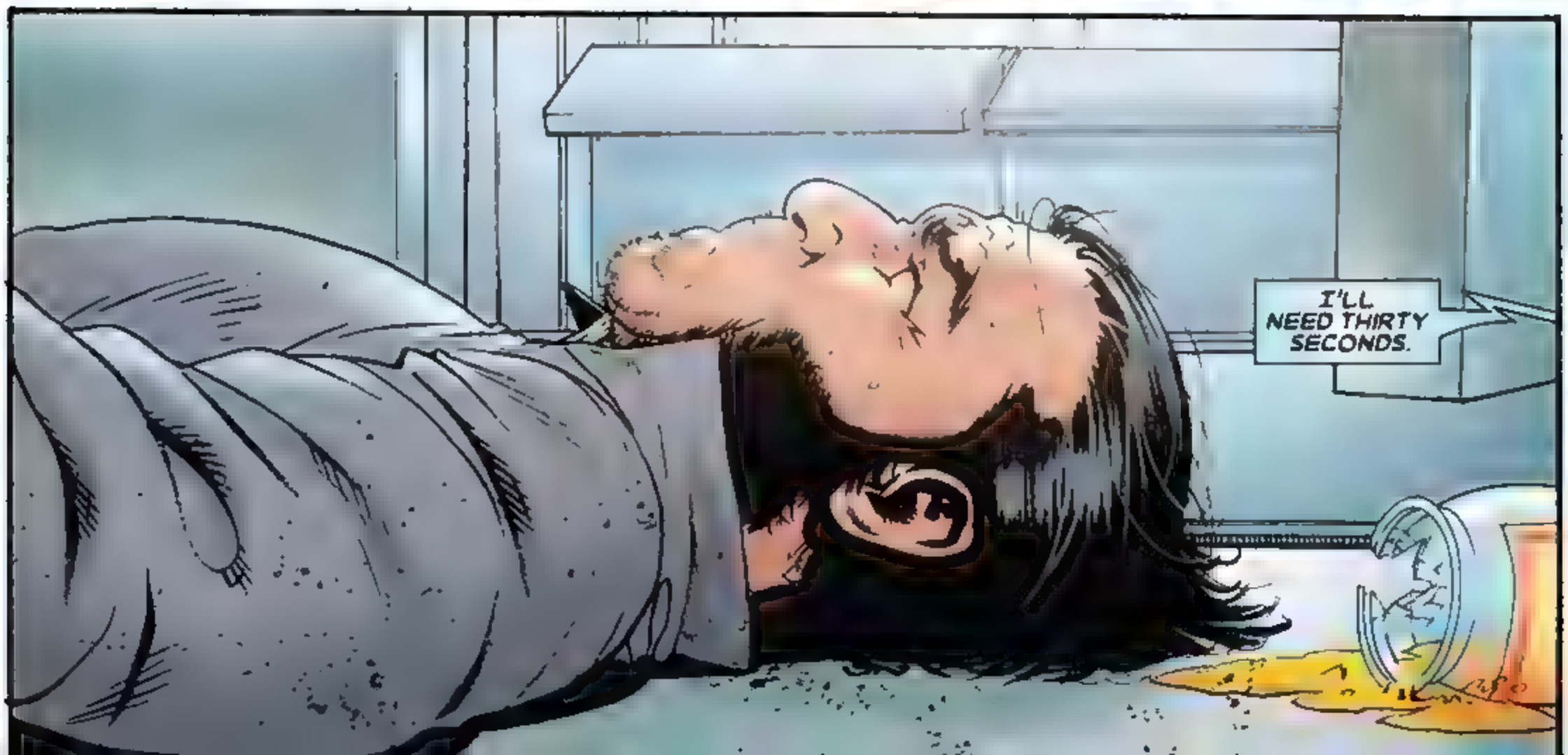
AND NO MORE OF THAT HEATHEN FUNNY TALK.

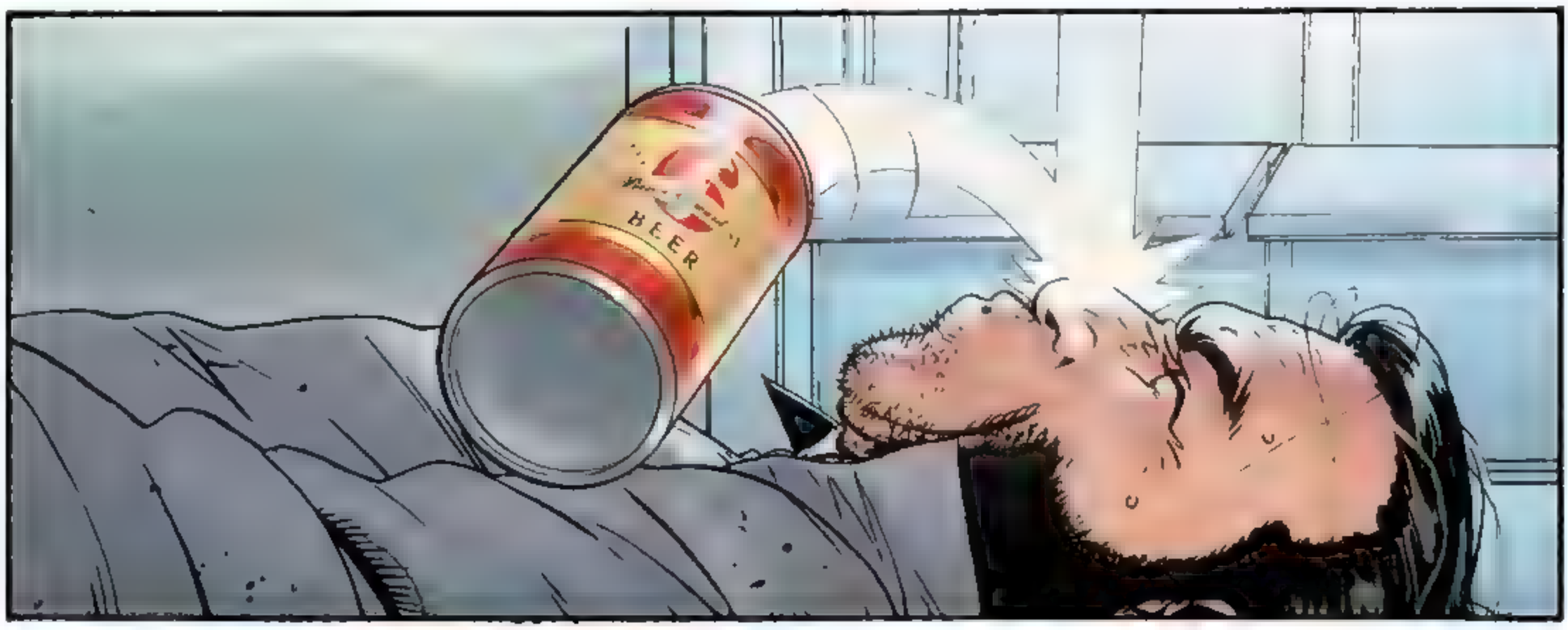
I'VE CLAWS, YOU KNOW.



IGNORE IT.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.


THE ALLOYS I BORROWED FROM THAT SPACE STATION ARE INFINITELY USEFUL.
I HARDLY MISS MY HARD-LIGHT CAPABILITIES.
JUST TELL ME WHERE HE IS.
THEIR NEW HOUSING SYSTEM PLACED HIM EXACTLY HERE. IT'S A SPATIAL SCRAMBLE CODE; THEY'VE UPGRADED.


I'LL NEED THIRTY SECONDS.


BEER

THIS IS NOT RIGHT.

YOU PROMISED ME --

I'M EXPERIENCING AN UNPRECEDENTED COGNITIVE DISSONANCE. LOCATORS ARE FLUCTUATING, IT'S... I'M LOST.

THEIR COMPUTERS CAN'T BE THIS GOOD

RASPUTIN. JUST RASPUTIN-- I WILL BEG IF I MUST.

TAKE ME TO HIM.

HELP ME SAVE THE WORLD.

NNNYAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

GOD...

THANK YOU, GOD...

KITTY?

KITTY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I DID... WHAT YOU WOULDN'T...

AND I DID IT, PETER.

I SAVED OUR SON.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME.

YOU CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE TRAPPED IN THAT SLIMY MESS.

OF COURSE I CAN.

I HAVE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTS IN THIS.

SENTIMENT, MADAM? FROM YOU?

AS SOON AS I AM FREE OF THAT THING AND BACK TO FULL POWER I WILL MELT EVERY ONE OF YOU INTO NOTHINGNESS.

SO I THOUGHT I'D THANK YOU NOW.

IT'S BEEN, OF COURSE, A PLEASURE.

BEATS A MASS GRAVE IN GENOSHA ANY DAY.

MAY I ASSUME YOUR CHOICE OF A NEW HOST BODY?

OH YES.

AND BE ASSURED, I WILL TAKE MUCH BETTER CARE OF THAT HAIR.

HOW LONG?

MINUTES AT MOST. BUT TELL ME...

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

IMPOSSIB... AHH...

I'M SORRY.

BUT IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, EMMA...

... I DON'T HAVE ANY CLAWS.

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EMPIRE